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The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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The MPs made in Fleet Street

Hold the front bench

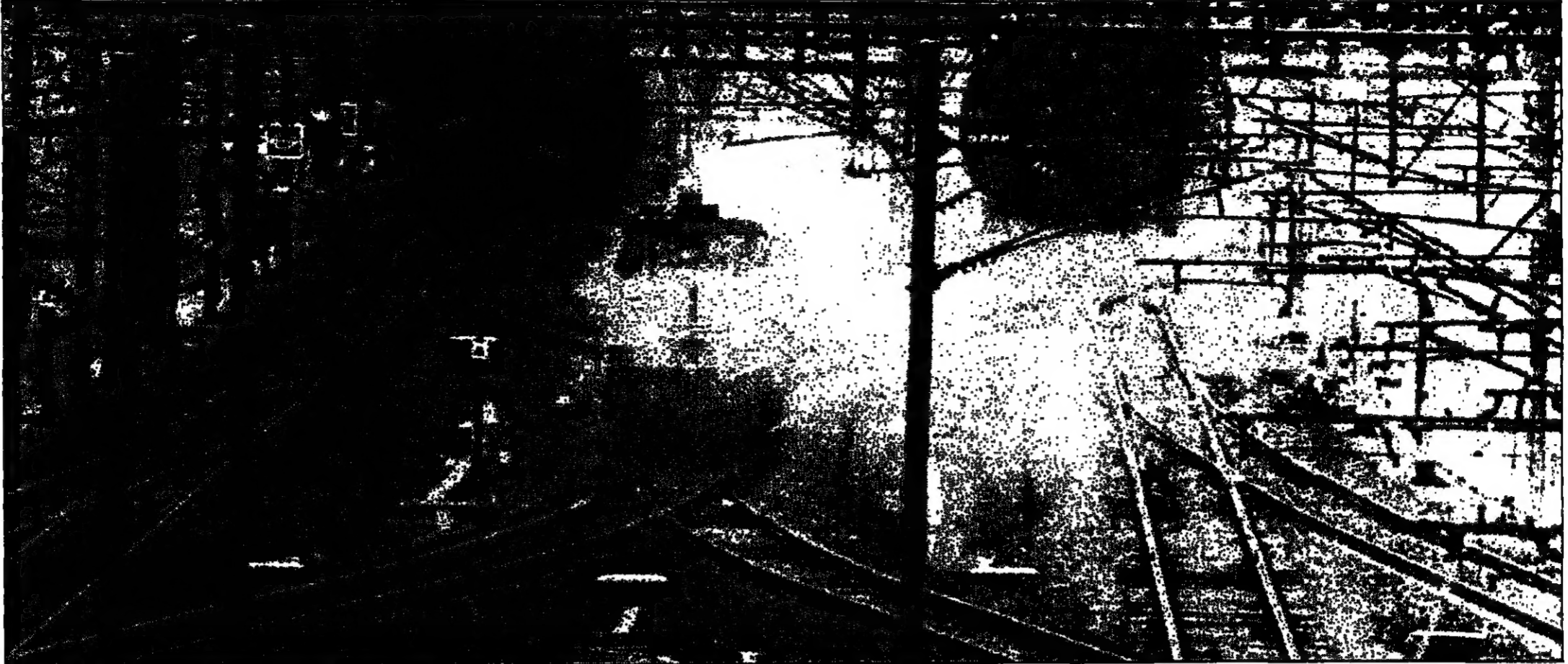
The German question

Burdened by the past, fearful of the future

Society

Squatters in the rainforest

'This was an unpleasant incident which should be seen as a satisfactory test of existing security systems'



A locomotive approaching the French end of the tunnel yesterday. Around a third of the tunnel was seriously damaged, and full service is unlikely to be resumed for at least a month

Is the Channel tunnel safe?

Inquiry to focus on why train stopped

Rebecca Smithers and Sarah Bosley

A FULL-scale Anglo-French inquiry was under way last night into the spectacular Channel Tunnel freight train blaze focusing on the decision to halt the train, leaving lorry drivers and their passengers trapped in a fume-filled carriage for 20 minutes.

The tunnel with toxic fumes. Why it took the French authorities one hour to alert the British fire brigade. Why ventilation systems failed to disperse smoke.

The 24 people were rescued from the train included 19 Britons who needed hospital treatment after suffering the effects of fumes and shock. The train driver Emilie Gard was the most seriously injured, but all the casualties were released yesterday.



Lorry driver Ian Edwards yesterday

'I sat in the corner preparing to die. I thought I was a goner'

Lorry driver Ian Edwards yesterday

bound shuttle described how the fire broke out more than 11 miles into the tunnel just after 9pm British time on Monday. The fire took some 14 hours to extinguish, after half the train and around one-third of the tunnel had been seriously damaged.

day that the freight shuttles had never been given as much consideration by Eurotunnel as the car shuttles, and that the BSC had warned about their dangers.

quacy of the safety procedures and any steps which can be taken to try to make sure similar incidents do not happen again in the future. It must be published in full" he said.

Help to ease the crisis in the NHS... learn first aid

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

B RITAIN must become a nation of first-aiders to ease pressure on struggling NHS casualty units, a government report said yesterday. Emergency care skills could become part of the driving test.

proof of under-investment in health services. Alistair Henderson, of Unison, the biggest health union, said: "Having people training in first aid is all well and good. But it's no substitute for a properly resourced A&E service."

"This attitude, in the group's view, needs to be challenged because it is in such situations that a bystander with emergency care skills could make a real difference."

Libelled former Irish PM faces £1m legal costs

Maggie O'Kane

T HE former Irish prime minister, Albert Reynolds, today faces a legal bill of up to £1 million, despite a jury deciding he was libelled by the Sunday Times.



lied and misled the Dail over the events leading to his resignation in 1994. It had not acted maliciously. It had simply repeated allegations made in the privileged surroundings of the Irish parliament.

defended Harry Whelehan — then recently promoted from attorney-general to president of the Irish high court — against criticism for delays in extraditing paedophile priest, Brendan Smyth, to Northern Ireland.

Inside

Britain

World News

Finance

Sport

Comment and Letters 8; Obituaries 10

The Guardian
Europe's Quality Newspaper

Sketch

Liz stars in an unfamiliar role



Simon Hoggart

THE Speaker called the name "Elizabeth Taylor". Everyone sniggered. Elizabeth Peacock MP, who was actually trying to ask a question, looked puzzled, as well she might. The two grandes dames are hard to confuse. Mrs Peacock was married only once, and her wedding was not attended by Michael Jackson or his pet ape.

She has never dallied with an unemployed truck driver. To my knowledge, Richard Burton never spoke publicly about the beauty of her breasts. The only thing they have in common is that neither has made a decent film in the past 30 years.

Review

Dancer fancies Futurist foodie

Andrew Clements

The Voluptuous Tango Radio 3

At a time when plenty of far less able composers have rushed into the opera house, usually with disastrous results, Dominic Muldowney, musical director at the Royal National Theatre, has yet to compose a fully fledged opera.

Labour joins Tory sceptics

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

LABOUR last night sought to exploit Government difficulties over a single currency by encouraging its MPs to sign a motion backed mainly by Tory Eurosceptics.

Riddle of Irish PM's exit baffles court

We referred a couple of months ago to Dungloe, in the far north-west of Donegal, where the gomben man and his higgler, the only surviving contemporaries of the cave tiger, the pleistosauros, and other primeval monsters, still roved about, picking the bones of their victims.

Irish Homestead 1907

David Sharrock on an extraordinary case

FROM his natural environment in the Irish boglands, the elusive gomben man and his habits have been under scrutiny in the High Court for the past six weeks.

Along the way the curse of Court 13 has seen the withdrawal of a diabetic juror, witness after witness, a general gastric attack, the temporary indisposition of a juror with tonsillitis, and another who had to rush to the hospital bedside of a mother with gallstones.

In the end it was not government that defeated the jury, but the difference between Mr Reynolds through the fall from power, and a British edition in which he was accused of lying. Or rather, telling "a fib too far".

Libelled former Irish PM faces £1m bill

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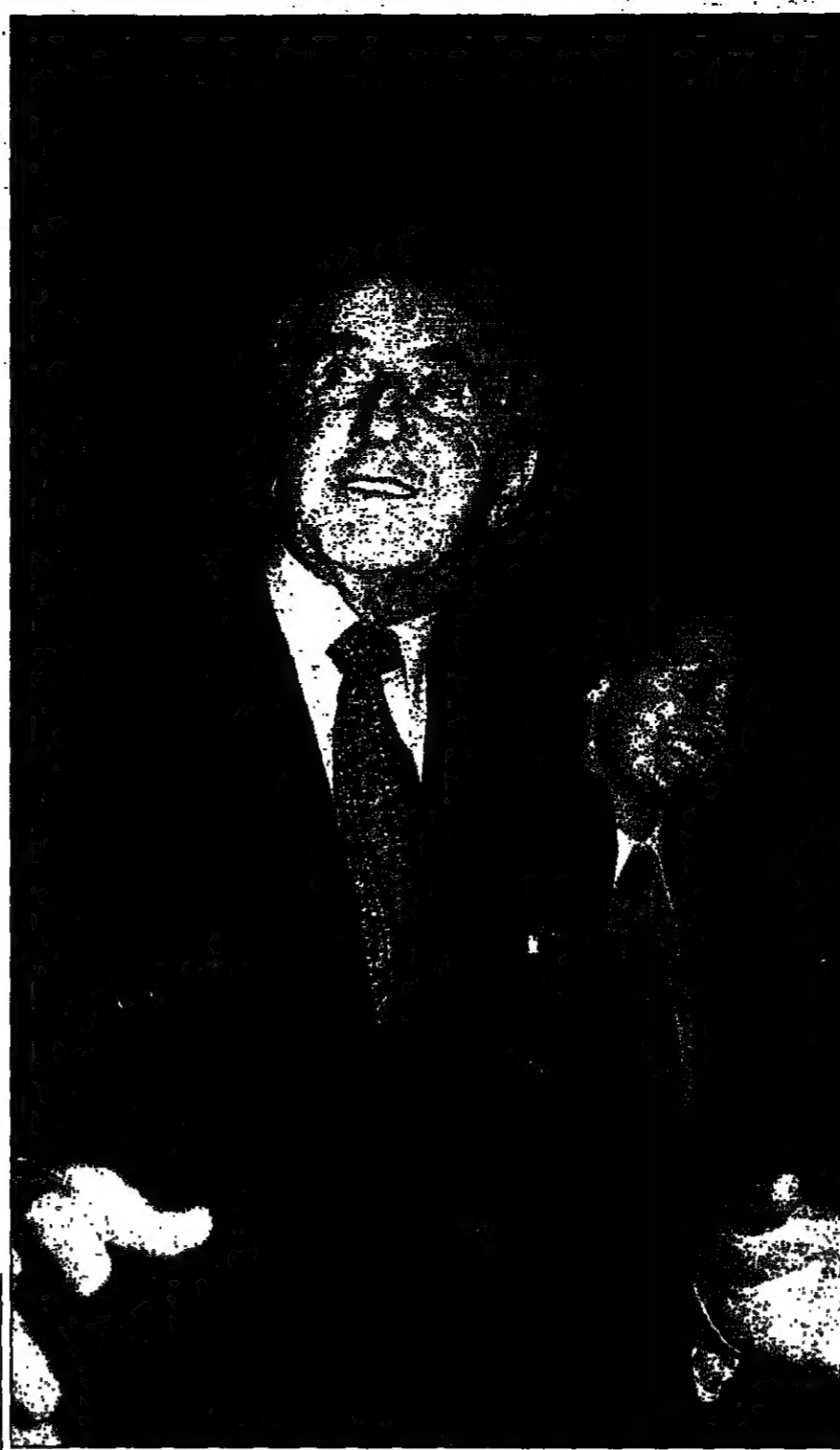
clear my good name and uphold my reputation. I am pleased that the jury agreed that I am not a liar.

Pope agrees Cuba visit

John Hooper in Rome

THE Pope yesterday accepted an invitation from Fidel Castro to visit Cuba next year - an indication that Vatican diplomats have succeeded in wringing from Havana a promise that the Pontiff will be free to do and say whatever he likes on the island.

"Of course I would not impose conditions. We will treat him with respect," President Castro said after the meeting. But, in a development that will disappoint Cuban exiles and opponents of the Castro regime, there was no firm evidence to suggest that the Pope had raised the issue of human rights in their historic 35-minute encounter.



Albert Reynolds leaves the court after its double-edged verdict

Tribunal, the longest and costliest inquiry held in Ireland, which played a part, however obscure, in Mr Reynolds's downfall.

It was purgatory for the jury - but spare a thought for the poor lawyers. Gaelic words like *Tuisiúch, Dail, and Fios* did not rhyme in Court 13. "Members of the jury, could you understand the gentleman with the moustache?" pleaded the judge during Mr O'Dea's video evidence.

Card chaos reward for Sainsbury

Sarah Ryle

SAINSBURY has suffered a setback in the supermarket wars after admitting yesterday that a widespread computer glitch has thrown its new loyalty card scheme into chaos.

Council says no to Cartland Gardens

Sharon Miller

IN the heavily powdered world of Barbara Cartland, nobody is beautiful, sassy young virgins are snatched up by handsome princes and everybody gets their just deserts.

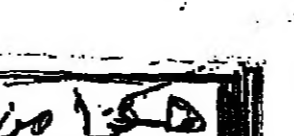
which she said would attract "little people" and make the town "common". But while others might have been falling over themselves to slap up a blue national heritage plaque, the town council made it plain that pink and fluffy was not the image it was after and rejected a proposal to name it Cartland Gardens.

James Price QC, for the Sunday Times, remarked that there was not much that could be done about Mr O'Dea, short of elocution lessons. Mr Price later apologised after the Dublin press pack explained to him that he had flown in the face of an old Irish tradition "which clearly states that we can laugh at Willie O'Dea but you can't".

In his immaculate suits and permanent suntan, Mr Reynolds never looked like a gomben man, the small-town merchant who, according to one Irish definition, gradually achieves a strangeness on his neighbours. "Gomba in Gaelic means vaguely a bit of a scamp, Gomben is a gumbie."

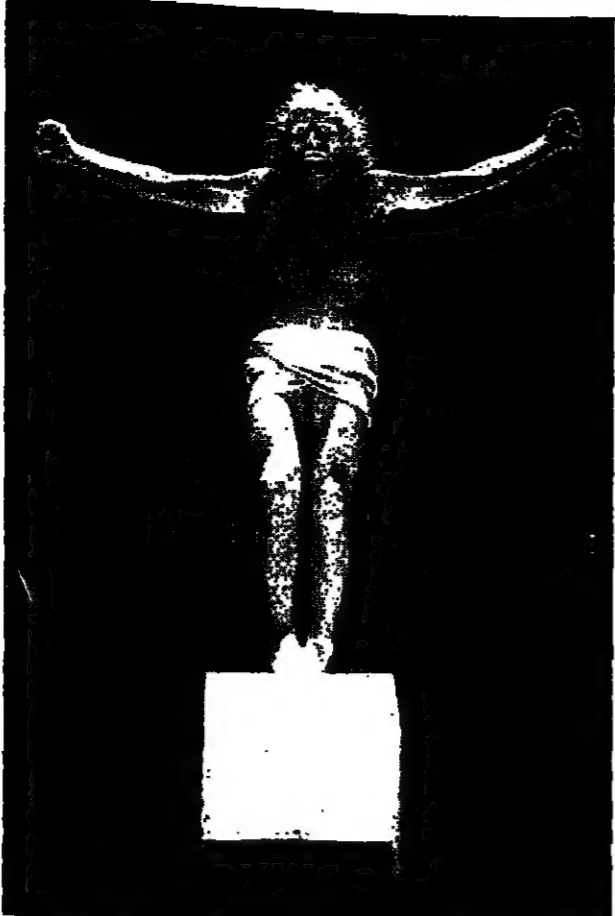
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BE THE BEST

مكتبة جامعة القاهرة



Paul Nicholas as Christ in 1972. PHOTOGRAPH: JANE BOWEN

The theatre has been closed for more than 50 years — the show is 25 years old but now it all represents a bright new hope as rock opera returned to the West End last night

Clare Longrigg on a musical revival

Second coming at the Lyceum

THERE'S no business like old showbusiness. A new production of Jesus Christ Superstar opened last night, 25 years after its world premiere in the United States. The grandfather of rock opera is being revived at the Lyceum theatre in the Strand, which reopens as a theatre after 55 years.

Jesus is played by a 25-year-old Welsh singer-songwriter, Steve Balsamo, who was launched on to the public consciousness in July as the opening act of the Prince's Trust Masters Of Rock concert in front of 150,000 people in Hyde Park.

think there is a real renaissance of rock'n'roll. We have tried to go back to the complete original score as much as possible. If you think the original cast were using hand-held mikes — this was before the age of radio mikes. When it's done with modern sound techniques it sounds like today.

Long playing record

- The musical ran on Broadway in 1971 to 1973, and grossed £2.8 million at the box office. Critics hailed it as "Best English musical score in years" and "less farcical than Cats."
- Ran in West End from 1972-1980, becoming longest-running musical. Grossed £7.5 million. Still the fifth longest running musical in West End history.
- Has been staged in at least 15 countries, including Kenya and Mexico.

- Second run on Broadway in 1977, but staggered along only for three months.
- Soundtrack made it to top of the US charts three times. Japanese kabuki version by Yūichirō Yamaguchi came to London Dominion in 1992.
- A 1973 film starring Ian Anderson as Jesus and Yvonne Elliman as Mary Magdalene took £8.6 million at the box office.
- 1972 Australian concert version attracted audience of nearly a million.



Joanna Ampil as Mary Magdalene and Steve Balsamo as Christ in the new production. PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD MILDENHALL

BBC in call for BSkyB curbs

Andrew Cuff Media Correspondent

SIR Christopher Blom, chairman of the BBC, yesterday delivered the corporation's strongest attack on Rupert Murdoch's potential stranglehold over the gateway to digital television. He called for clear and enforceable rules to ensure that the BBC and other broadcasters can compete with Mr Murdoch's growing BSkyB satellite operation.

Camelot profits fall in an instant

Lottery bets on midweek draw from February to boost sales

Dan Atkinson

THE controversial midweek lottery draw will begin on February 5, operator Camelot announced yesterday. It expects this second weekly draw to increase takings by up to 20 per cent, boosting the average total bet every seven days from about £58 million to about £82 million.

than they can afford. The Prime Minister has defended the midweek idea, saying: "I don't see why the nanny state should stop this if there's a demand for it."



Game plan... Tim Holley, chief executive of Camelot

with the BBC after next year. Camelot said it had started to examine the possibility of overseas expansion. It would not comment on suggestions that it might bid for a national lottery in South Africa.

Serra Pelada, once a raucous boom town, is now a ghost. A sign in the street offers "One Hour Processing" but it refers to malaria tests, not film. Jan Rocha on the destruction of Brazil's rainforest

Society G2 page 10

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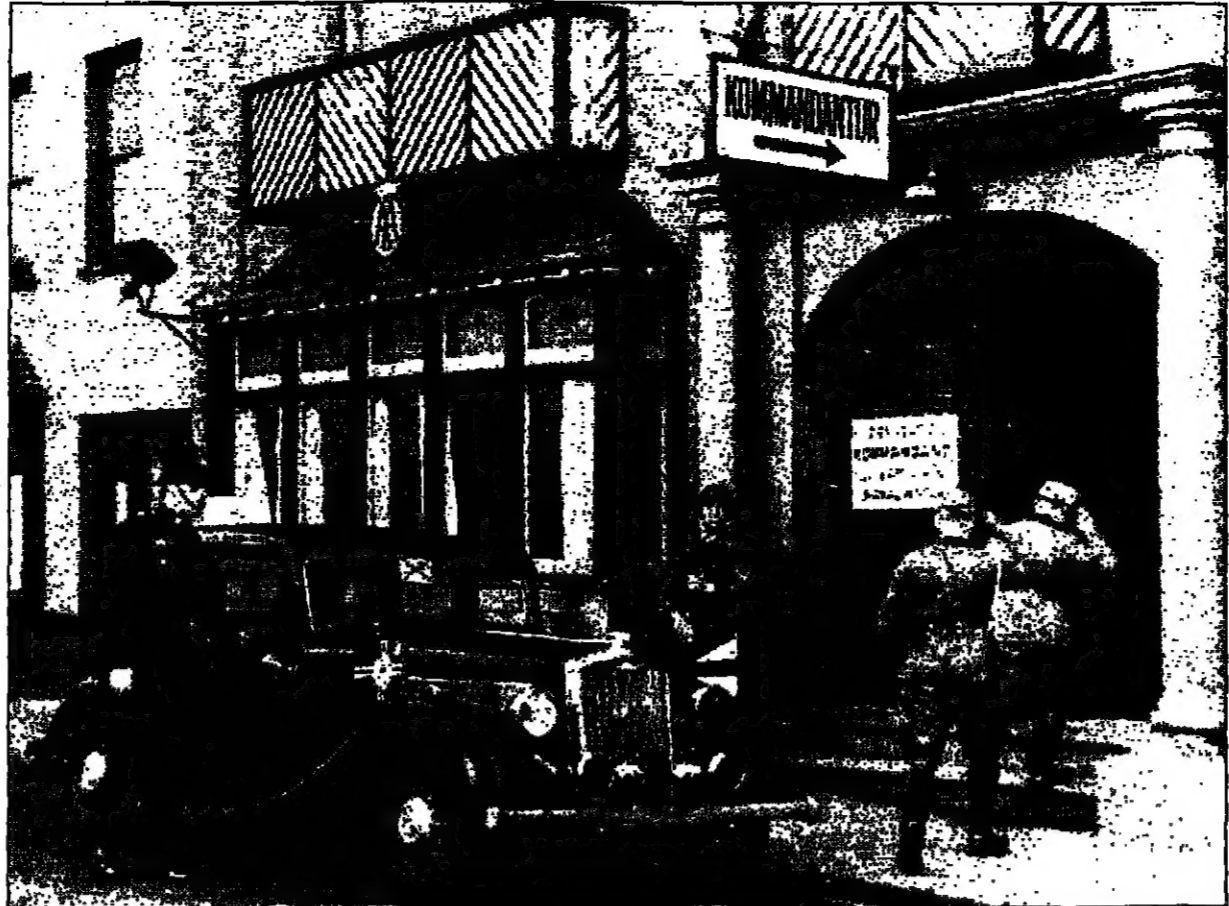
War files reveal horror of island's SS camp

Madeline Bunting on brutal treatment meted out to slave labourers on Alderney

ALDERNEY prisoners were crucified on a camp gate, hung naked while SS guards threw buckets of cold water over them and beaten to death, files on the treatment of eastern European slave workers in Britain's only second world war concentration camps revealed yesterday.

The 11 files, released at the Public Record Office, Kew, following their return from the German authorities investigating war crimes, fill in some of the missing history of Alderney's four slave labour camps. About half the Rus-

sian and Ukrainians employed on building German fortifications on the island died, according to British military intelligence reports. A former slave labourer subsequently transferred to France told British authorities in 1944: "Too undernourished and exhausted to work efficiently, these men were mercilessly beaten by the German guards and frequently, when they were too weak to stand up, they were clubbed to death or finished off with a knife. Illness and disease became rampant." The forced labourers — mostly from Russia and the



A policeman attends on German officers during the occupation of the Channel Islands, and right, Kurt Klebeck, SS deputy commandant of the Alderney camp, at home in Hamburg



Ukraine — were fed nothing but a watery cabbage soup and a tiny ration of bread. In June 1943 a German medical commission found that only half of a detachment of 1,500 forced labourers were still alive and of them 450 had gone to hospital. The files are the last remaining official documents which were to have been held back until 2020. They were examined by the German authorities for evidence against 50-year-old Kurt Klebeck, the deputy SS commandant in charge of the Syt camp on Alderney following revelations in the Guardian in 1982 that

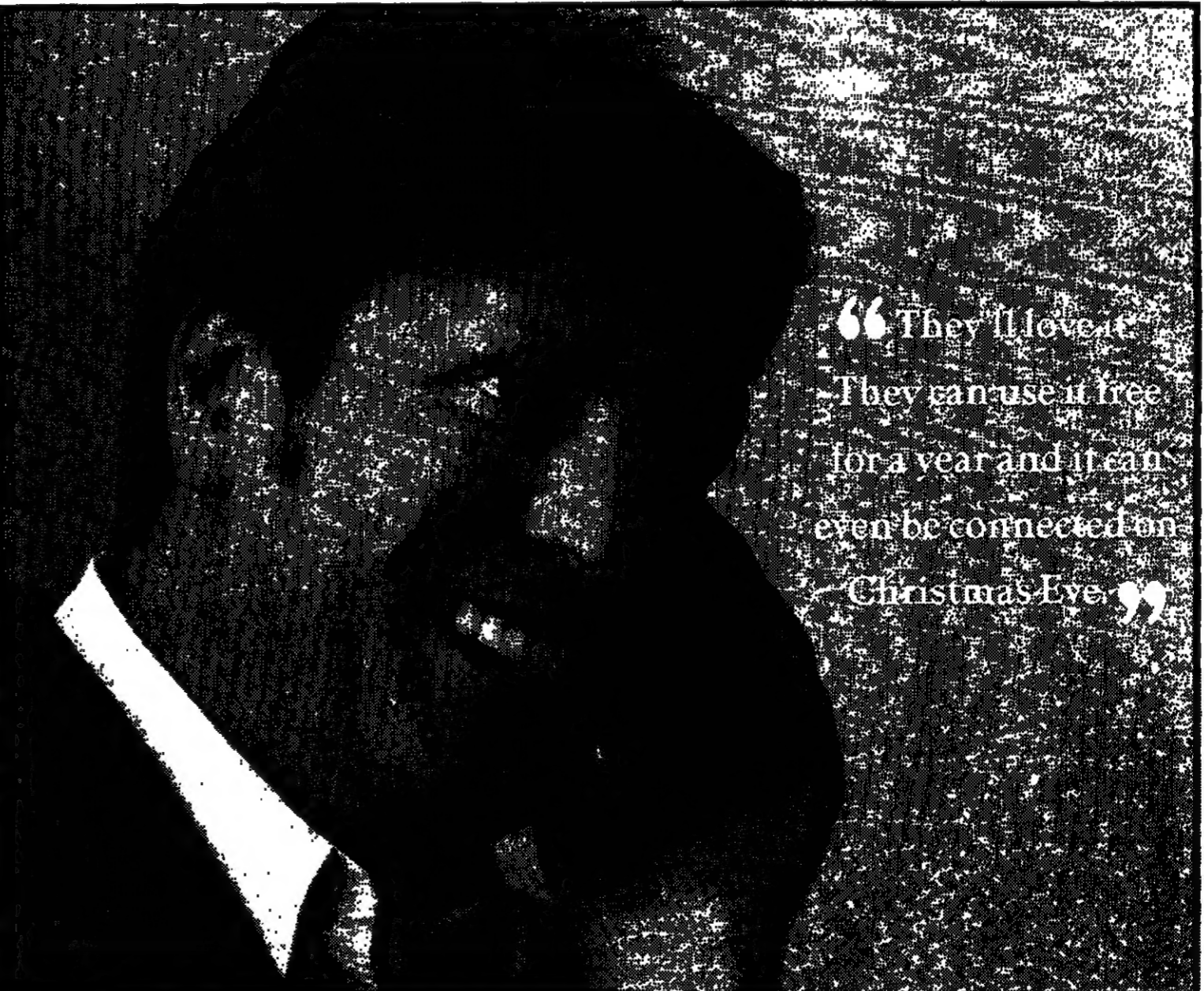
he was living in a Hamburg suburb. The documents reveal how much detail the British authorities had about atrocities on Alderney, although no German has ever been prosecuted for war crimes on the island. Several German officers responsible were held in a prisoner-of-war camp in London until being released without trial to go back to Germany in the late 1940s. The files do not give a final death toll. Only 337 bodies were found buried but camp survivors put the total of deaths at over 1,000. But the files corroborate Ukrainian and Russian survivors' descriptions of atrocities. According to one German prisoner of war, Werner Zehne, a ship was loaded with 300 Russians and then kept in Alderney harbour for three days in January 1943. "In its hold these people were crowded together like herring without straw, beds or blankets. They were terribly emaciated. Food was a watery soup once a day. "When opening the trap door a terrible stench met us. On the return journey on each occasion we had to take back frightfully emaciated

corpuses of Russians." Finally, a storm wrecked the ship. "Many Russians locked up in the hold lost their lives." British military intelligence was told of a whip made of a "rubber rod covered with a steel spiral, with a plastic coating over it and covered again in a leather sock." Arbitrary beatings and shootings of slave labourers were commonplace. Desperate for food, they were reduced to stealing pigswill and scurrying with their bare hands for the buried intestines outside a slaughterhouse. "When the guards got drunk at night all the prisoners were dragged out of doors, paraded and beaten up with pick shafts. Many Russians died under the blows." Although most of the islanders had been evacuated before the Germans arrived a significant number of Guernsey men and Jersey men, enticed by the offer of higher rations, went to work on Alderney. The files reveal for the first time their names. Twenty-two Guernsey men are listed as working for the Germans as lorry drivers, plasterers and labourers. Several Jerseywomen, some of whom had had to be sent home because they had venereal disease, are also listed. The files enigmatically refer to an allegation that two Englishmen were killed and buried by the Germans. There have been no previous reports of Englishmen dying in the Alderney camps. Former slave labourers also revealed to British military intelligence the atrocities they witnessed in Belarus and Estonia before they were transported to the Channel Islands; they had seen hundreds of Jews rounded up and shot and Jewish women and children raped.

COLLABORATORS: 'Some women act disgracefully. One of them rejoices in giving a Nazi salute when she passes a German'

THE names of alleged collaborators, informers and women who had children by German soldiers — some of whom may still be alive — are revealed in the papers released yesterday, writes Madeline Bunting. Nineteen women and 20 men are named in the documents released by the Ministry of Defence. In contrast to previous documents in which names were blacked out for fear of causing difficulty for islanders or their descendants. One woman is described as a "notorious informer" against loyal British subjects. She was stated to have frequently received the reward of £100 for information. Another woman is "a Jerrybag and a nymphomaniac." One 20-year-old in 1944 is said to have informed against her father and had a child by a German. Another "rejoices in giving the Nazi salute

whenever she passes a German." The British military intelligence reports, based on interrogation of islanders liberated by the Allies as they were travelling through France to German prisons, refer repeatedly to the "disgraceful" behaviour of some women. "There are many illegitimate children born of German fathers. Many of the mothers are married to British soldiers. In one case, a woman with three children by her serving British husband has had three more by a German." Informants to British intelligence said that young men were planning to tar and feather "troop carriers" after the war. "The informants [those interrogated by British military intelligence] speak of seven out of 10 women succumbing. Between 800 and 900 babies had been born on Jersey of German fathers and many more are on the way. Abortions have been innumerable at a rate of £5.5s (£5.25) for a German father and £3.3s (£3.30) for a local man." Equally controversial will be the informants' condemnation of officials in the island governments. The head of Guernsey's government, John Leale, who was knighted after the war, is described as "generally thought to be an evil influence in the island and is considered pro-German... he lives well on far above the ordinary rations." Another key member of the Guernsey government, Raymond Falla, "goes with the Germans on shooting parties and is considered to be a collaborator." On Jersey, members of the Supreme Council were accused of using their position to secure extra supplies of scarce food and fuel. Black marketeering was alleged to be rampant among officials. The breakdown of pre-war rules of conduct is evident in reports that German headquarters were receiving up to 200 letters a month from islanders informing on neighbours.



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6 WORLD NEWS

China tackles moral rot with a smile

Andrew Higgins in Beijing

LI SULLI, bus conductor and rising star of China's revived cult of the model worker, is far too busy these days being a celebrity to turn up for work.

Ms Li, aged 35 and mother to the requisite single child, has become chief cheerleader in a national campaign for rectitude and political obedience, an ill-defined pot-pourri of virtues known in Communist Party jargon as spiritual civilisation.

worked in the 1960s but has little relevance today. An irreverent rock guitarist recently featured the model worker at work. "I saw her once but that was months ago. It was before she became famous."

For the party, the only good model worker is a dead one

bus conductor in a rendition of Beautiful Girl — and was banned from performing for three years. He was accused of making "unsavoury gestures" on top of a piano.

gan "study Li Sull, achieve first-class service". Ms Li, meanwhile, is too busy preaching to bother much with practice.

ation Army who declared himself a "trustless screw of the revolution" and then perished when a telephone pole fell on his head.

photo opportunities and interviews and arranges her roadshows and speaking tours. Ms Li now has only one real rival at the summit of Chinese political correctness, a plodding model plumber from Shanghai called Xu Hu.

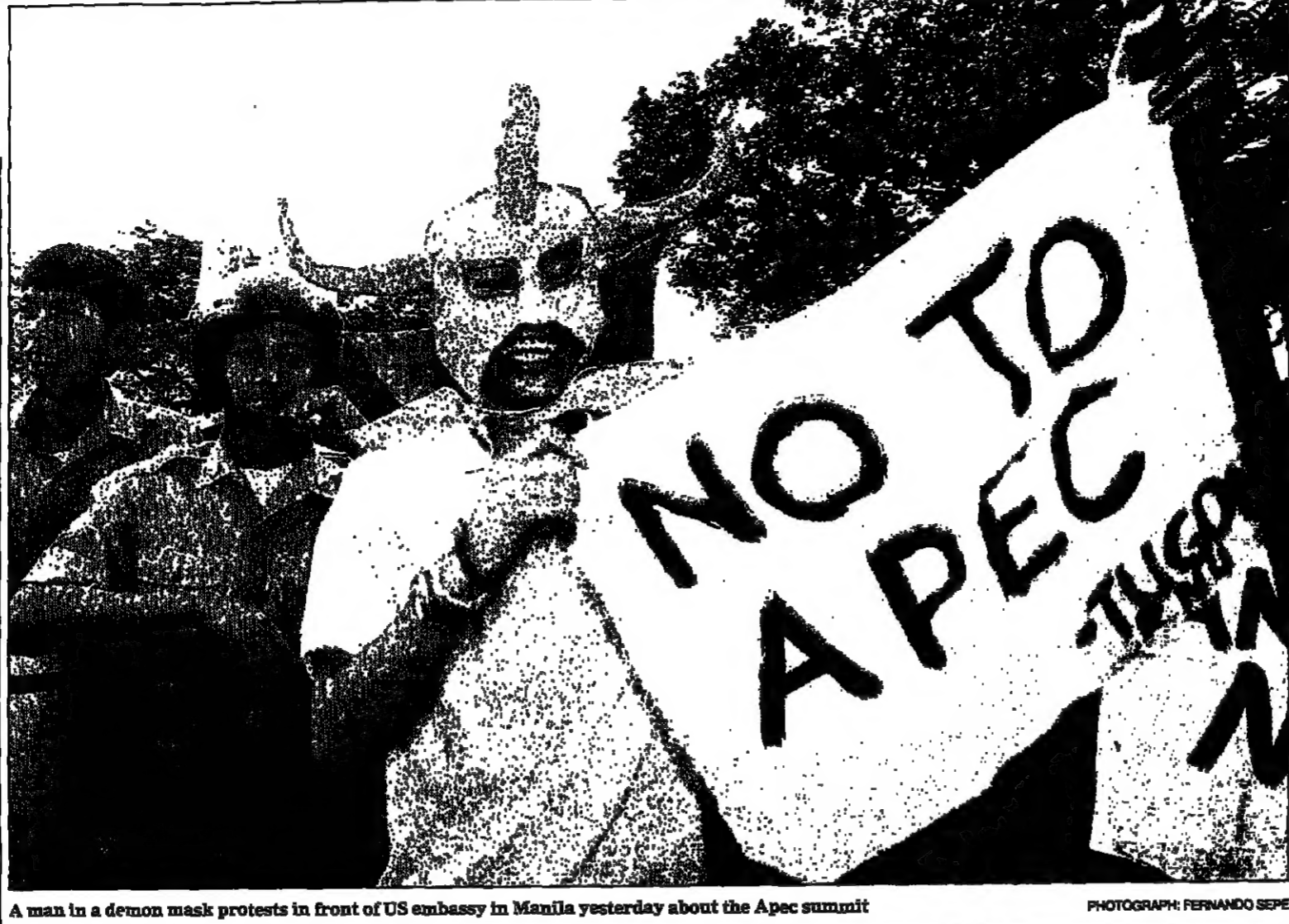
depot supervisor and keeper of a permanent shrine to the conductor at Beijing's gargantuan railway station, starting point for the number 21.

to counter the excesses created by Deng Xiaoping's credo of "to get rich is glorious". Most Chinese would applaud any serious attempt to stop the country's moral rot.

Summit time blues are back for Manila's poor

Keith Richburg in Manila

MELBA Marcos, widow of former president Ferdinand Marcos, used to call it "beautification". In practice, it meant that whenever the Philippines hosted an international event the capital got a fresh coat of paint and the "eyesores" — thousands of squatter families living in shacks — were forcibly removed.



A man in a demon mask protests in front of US embassy in Manila yesterday about the Apec summit

Killing deepens Cambodian rift

Nick Cumming-Bruce in Bangkok

LONG-TROUBLED relations between Cambodia's joint prime ministers, Prince Ranariddh and Hun Sen, appeared to be close to snapping yesterday after gunmen shot dead Mr Hun Sen's brother-in-law.

fair, but tension in Phnom Penh increased sharply. "People are scared," a Western analyst in the city said. "The war of words between the leadership is so volatile and the second prime minister is so irrational that anything could happen."

Confused and afraid: being German today

The German Question

As a nation of congenial workers, the Germans do not need to be prodded into being fretful. Take Karin, having breakfast at Frankfurt airport, impatient to get off to Miami. Dressed head to ankle in denim, the 38-year-old sound engineer seems the very model of modern German womanhood — successful, independent, prosperous.



Fretful for the future, a homeless German shares his angst with his more prosperous compatriots

lan Traynor in Bonn reports, in the third of his series, on how an endemic fear of falling is determining the direction of a Germany burdened by its past and fearful of its future

An international poll on the generation gap, he said, showed an average of 15 per cent of those aged under 30 rejected their parents' values. In western Germany the figure was 30 per cent.

Crash families face cash wait

Suzanne Goldenberg in New Delhi

SAUDI Arabian Airlines, stung by accusations that it has cold-bloodedly rejected the families of those killed when a Kazakh plane collided with one of its jumbo jets last week near New Delhi, says it is stepping up efforts to compensate relatives for the loss of their breadwinners.

relatively well-paid job in Arab countries. Indian newspapers have told stories of relatives who arrived at the crash site after a three-day bus journey from remote areas to be told to search the wreckage for themselves.

says it has been hampered in its efforts to contact the families because many of the dead came from remote areas of India and gave agents' addresses as their own.

However, those theories have now been discounted. "If we eliminate pilot error and we eliminate instrument error and language and such-like problems, what does it come down to: air traffic control," said Narendra Gupta, a former air vice-marshal.

Flying in Africa 'inherently risky'

Keith Harper Transport Editor

AFRICA'S airlines warned yesterday that all flights in Africa were "inherently at risk".

mid-air collision had been avoided only "by the most fortuitous circumstances". Its technical director, Peter Quantmire, said that when Ikalpa heard of the Indian mid-air collision last week it thought the accident had occurred in Africa.

Judges dismiss Bhutto plea

PAKISTAN'S supreme court yesterday threw out Benazir Bhutto's petition challenging her dismissal as prime minister.

Judges dismissed her plea as scandalous, irrelevant and frivolous. Lawyers will meet Ms Bhutto today to discuss its resubmission.

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Terror in the tunnel

Open wagons badly need more safeguards

FIRE in the Channel Tunnel was the nightmare scenario, a disaster almost too fearful to contemplate seriously. Now that it has happened, only two years after the tunnel opened for business, it will leave the deep scar that a nightmare always does.

Safety was always a major issue in the building of the tunnel and the upshot of such a serious emergency appears to be that good and necessary precautions were put in place.

The thought — let alone the reality — of being trapped in a burning tunnel deep under the earth is a truly terrifying one. Two years ago, the Consumers' Association found that the public was twice as worried about crossing the Channel by tunnel as by air, and three times more worried about the tunnel than about ferry travel.

The tunnel was, and still is, this country's engineering wonder of the age. That hasn't changed. But, after Monday night, the tunnel will be used with a trepidation that did not properly exist before. The travelling public has become accustomed to sweeping to and fro between London and continental Europe at immense speed and ease.

The principal question which appears to arise from the fire concerns the wisdom of using open wagons to transport HGVs through the tunnel. When cars are transported on Le Shuttle, they are locked into air-tight compartments which minimise the dangers from fire.

Tough, but not tough enough

Government should follow the evidence: ban all handguns

IT TOOK 15 deaths in Hungerford to produce stricter controls over automatic rifles. It has taken 17 deaths in Dunblane to move towards tighter controls over automatic handguns.

not available, substitute weapons tend to be less lethal. In the words of the Home Office's evidence to the Cullen inquiry: "Even many robbers use guns fairly spontaneously. If guns are not available and something else is used, the outcome is highly likely to be less lethal."

Standby for even the partial ban to be eroded through special exemptions proposed by the Firearms Consultative Committee, a supposedly independent advisory committee set up in the wake of Hungerford, but which the gun lobby succeeded in stuffing with gun enthusiasts.

Compare US and UK crime rates. All American murder rates are higher than comparable British categories, but whereas US killings involving weapons other than guns are only 2.5 times as high, gun-related murders are 50 times higher and handgun-related killings 150 times higher.

After Boutros — Buggins

There must be a better way at the UN: like having an election

SO, IT IS farewell Boutros-Boutros Ghalib, but the identity of the next secretary-general of the United Nations, and the prospects for the world body as it enters the 21st century, are very unclear. Until yesterday's formal US veto of a second term for the Egyptian diplomat, no one was quite certain that Bill Clinton would stick to the threat he made while campaigning last summer.

predict that the next secretary-general will, in any case, be another African, following the custom of Buggins's turn that ensures each region of the world gets two terms in the top job. BGG's rudely truncated tenure means that it will be politically impossible to elect a non-African, thus automatically excluding possible worthies such as Ireland's Mary Robinson or Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway.



Letters to the Editor

Life, love and Germany

BY combining a plea for a referendum and the results of the Goethe-Institut survey of attitudes on the same page (Leader, November 18), you couldn't have illustrated more dramatically the futility of a referendum on a common European currency.

As the BSE crisis broke in Europe, German consumer anxieties — and the German government's response — seemed to figure prominently in the British government's Blame Someone Else strategy.

The best-known names would surely be those of a past leader and a sports hero (eg for France, Napoleon and Cantona), and knowledge of the language would improve pupils' understanding.

YOUR report on British children's prejudices against the Germans (20th Century, November 19) reminded me of my daughter's experience a couple of years after my return to live here.

With considerable bemusement that someone had written on the blackboard "If Churchill can beat Hitler, Gizza can beat Matthews."

CONGRATULATIONS on your excellent editorial. Your supremely logical conclusion that "learning the language... will transform perceptions", which is so patently true for Germans,

The doctors' dilemma: who has the right to let the patient die?

CONGRATULATIONS on alerting readers to the fact that James Mumby QC and Sir Stephen Brown favour the authorisation of death by dehydration and starvation for near-vegetative patients (Is a flicker of life enough? November 18).

amounts of analgesics such as morphine. Doctors constantly have to make judgments about how far to go and try to act in the patient's best interests.

From where did James Mumby pluck the figure of 1,000 to 1,500 such patients? Britain has only 200 district hospitals. Some have no vegetative patients; some have at most two.

A severely brain-damaged stroke patient was tube-fed against the wishes of the family, despite the knowledge that she had explicitly told them she would not have wanted feeding if ever such circumstances arose.

THE reason so few cases of PVS have been brought to the courts for permission to withdraw feeding is because many doctors do not agree that the court is the best judge of whether a patient should be allowed to die, and feel the focus on PVS alone is totally arbitrary.

Many doctors believe that the BMA and the law are wrong to want the courts involved. The public trusts us to investigate and treat their life-threatening illnesses and we should be allowed to continue practising as we have always done and help patients and families arrive at decisions which are in the patient's best interest.

There are many occasions when the decision is made either to withhold treatment, withdraw treatment, or accept death with increasing Name and address supplied.

Do's and don'ts of the Good Book

GEORGE Monbiot points out that the Old Testament book of Leviticus contains a large number of detailed rules, most of which Christians have long forgotten (Vengeance is mine, saith the evangelical, November 19).

I don't know whether the Bible "takes man's sin seriously" (the poor bloke got struck dead) but it was not as it is sometimes presented. Few of us would feel an obligation to have a child by our brother's widow.

What you will not find there (nor anywhere else in the Bible, I think) is any reference to contraception or abortion. In view of the mass of other regulations we can only conclude that this is because they are never seen as issues. The Catholic Church has been making it up as it goes along.

MEMBERS of Reform (Marching as to war over sin and sexuality, November 19) should note that Leviticus did say men should not shave or cut their hair; divorced persons who re-marry should be killed; no-one should ever wear garments consisting of both wool and linen.

A Country Diary

TAMAR VALLEY: Bedraggled Old Man's Beard, caught up in hawthorn berries and rotting purple bullaces, festoons trees in the dell or chard and is rampant in hedgerows above a dripping slate-cutting along the sunken lane to Hailton Quay.

lugged up steep ramps to the kiln tops, often by packhorse, and, at Hailton Quay, in trucks pulled by a wire rope, worked by water-wheel. Alkermite layers of coal and limestone were packed down into the kiln wells, some more than 20 feet deep, to be fired and kept alight by skilled lime-burners. One ton of stone produced 11cwts of lime after eight hours burning and Hailton's four kilns usually produced 500-600 tons a year.

Wide world, narrow view

TONI Strasbour (The late, late show, November 9) refers to the survey, Watching the World, carried out by Third World and the Environment (SWE) and sponsored by a group of agencies including Unicef-UK.



individual BBC2 and C4 programmes analysed by the report. Despite dealing with more complex, less obviously popular subjects, the remaining 98 per cent of programmes aimed at a younger audience of 1.55 million viewers and 7 per cent audience share. This attests to a significant level of minority interest; yet such programmes are increasingly threatened by the mounting pressure on producers and editors at BBC2 and C4 to deliver a minimum 10 per cent audience share.

Of 2,568 hours of peak-time factual (non-news) programming monitored, only 98 hours had any filming done in the Third World, that is 3 per cent. The report also details a 14 per cent drop in such output over the three years (1994-9) of the study.

Natural history, celebrity travel and leisure interests accounted for 45 per cent of

Paying for the party

YOU suggest (Leader, November 19) that the existence of a "blind fund" to support the Labour leader's office demonstrates double standards. This is nonsense.

which has raised many millions of pounds in the last few months to spend on negative campaigning, and keep the source secret from the public, while letting the Prime Minister and cabinet ministers know, is preposterous.

We were particularly careful in establishing this fund. We consulted the two top QCs in this field. Their advice was that, because of the special position of the leader's office, it was important to keep the identities of all donors confidential so that there could be no suggestion that the making of donations might be intended, or might in practice operate, so as to exert influence or secure favour.

It is hard to believe that it is a coincidence that all the venues graced by Mr Lang at breakfast so far are in Conservative-held seats with majorities of less than 5,000.

Small firms deserve help and support from government, and have a right to expect rather better than this shabby PR exercise intended as a last-ditch attempt to save ministerial skins.

IN the second half of your article (Donors' names 'not known' to Blair, November 18), you report that Sir Robin Butler has vetted Ian Lang's business-breakfast tour for possible impropriety.

Brief words

YOUR leader (November 19) on the fees charged by the Bar described one wholly exceptional case. The reality is that a standard appearance fee in the crown court, payable for most attendances, is 240-odd. The self-employed barrister pays insurance, chambers' rent and tax out of that, perhaps ending up with 225 or so for themselves, for work that could easily run to five or six hours of preparation the night before, travel, waiting and presentation.

INDIA Melvern says (Obituary, November 18) that she gave Alger Hiss some declassified secret telegrams she had found in the Public Record Office "in the strictest confidence" and that Hiss told her she was "in possession of documents she should never have been allowed to see".

Anne Crawford, Press Officer, Public Record Office, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU.

Diary

Dan Glaister

EXCITING news from the world of spin-doctoring. No, really. An update arrives on the career intentions of George Stephanopoulos...

CALLERS to the number of Ian Greer Associates may be pleased to hear the mantra "5651" when the phone is answered...

ONE overseas client who won't have any further need for Mr G's services is the recently deposed government of Eritrea...

IT'S spooky. It's threatening. It's enough to give Jack Straw nightmares... It's the latest Labour poster...

FOOD is the new rock and roll? Give me a break. Food, as any connoisseur will know, is the new fine art...

PEPPER is being circulated by features writer Annie Leask to have Daily Express deputy editor Ian Monk reinstated...

INTERESTING change to last night's TV schedules: Wax meets Fergie, repeated. Good to see a commercial consciousness at work in Birtland.



Bring back the Lord Chamberlain

Commentary Catherine Bennett

THE QUEEN has appointed a new Lord Chamberlain, Lord Camoys, the former Ralph Thomas Campion...

time, God will provide a natural successor to Mary Whitehouse — but can we afford to wait? Besides, by today's standards of probity, Mary Whitehouse has been culpably indulgent...

Virgin Mary, whom he apparently believes to be the immaculate mother of Jesus, and Eamon's complaints about the incoherence of sleeping next to Jesus's "cursed halo" — when, as everyone knows, halos are always switched off at night...

partments into answering questions on a non-existent drug called "cack". One of the silly-billies, the MP David Amess, may have been feeling peculiarly sensitive having only lately been tricked, by another comedian, into having his (suited) buttocks filmed on television...

Mrs Whitehouse failed to protect us from the gratuitous violence of Reservoir Dogs and Pulp Fiction

discouraging explanation, is that the series, if it began now, would end up by polluting the festive season: "The material's too strong and sensitive to go out during Christmas week..."



A farewell to cant?

Allegations of small-arms sales to Rwanda have stung the Government into investigating the trade. But, argues Richard Norton-Taylor, Westminster has a history of weasel words not action

AT a private hearing of the arms-to-Iraq inquiry, Andrew Collins, a prosecuting lawyer for Customs, was asked by Sir Richard Scott if the Government knew British arms dealers were evading controls by selling weapons to Baghdad via Jordan...

not with conventional weapons, certainly not with small arms. Yesterday, in a remarkable turnaround in style at least, substance has yet to be demonstrated — the Government was stung into action, announcing the setting-up of a new Whitehall committee to see whether the Government needs new powers to prevent British-based firms from dealing in foreign arms...

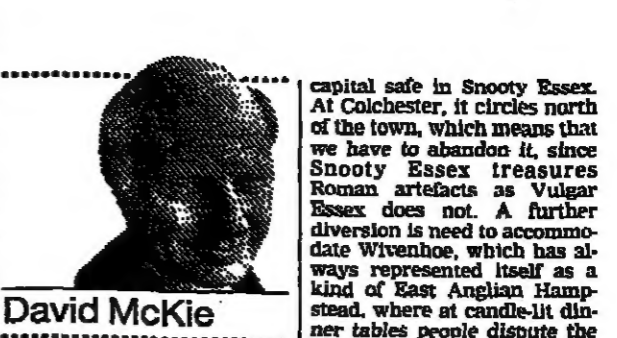
Testosterone and other taxes

of Milton Keynes so succinctly puts it. Some are more radical still: "abolition of the money and wages system as a prelude to the demise of social class" might not be Mr Clarke's first thought, but then John Bissett, its proponent, is the Socialist Party's PPC for Jarrow...

businesses think more long-term and responsibly

Speculators would also suffer under plans from Nigel Lee, of Nottingham: "A tax on the speculative movement of capital would shift economic power back to the Government and away from the financial markets..."

In praise of the cleavage of Essex



UNTIL last weekend, respectable Essex, assailed with the usual jokes about Essex girls and the like, could console itself with the thought: this has nothing to do with us...

They have this consolation no longer. A London academic, Dr Jennifer Ward, is reported to have come up with the thesis that Essex girls were Essex girls long before the term was invented: on the look-out for men from the age of 13, probably married at 20, and entrepreneurial enough in their instincts to carry on the business if husbands died young...

SECOND, it's only just that South Woodham Ferrers should take the occasional knock in return for past cossetting. The Daily Telegraph used to have a managing editor who lived there and insisted on finding space for stories of South Woodham Ferrers, revealing, for instance, that the morning trains to Liverpool Street had been running late yet again...

Advertisement for VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) featuring a cartoon of a person holding a rocket and text: "Some people in the Third World rely on British arms. Others rely on British legs, hands, eyes, brains and ears."

Racing Weights and cash rise in National

Ken Oliver

TOP weight for next year's Grand National is to be increased to 12st from 11st 10lb and the prize money upped by £50,000 to £200,000 in a bid to attract class horses.

These changes, along with the minimum rating qualification being cut from 120 to 110, are aimed at attracting more entries and preventing a repetition of last year when only 27 went to post, the smallest field for 36 years.

From January, the weight increase to 12st will apply to all jump handicaps of three and a half miles or over and the British Horseracing Board seeks to maximise race fields.

Charles Barnett, managing director at Aintree, said: "We feel by substantially increasing prize money and easing the race conditions we have taken positive steps to achieving our objective of a Martell Grand National field that is strong both in quality and numbers."

"Our aim is to attract class horses whilst at the same time producing a field as close as possible to the safety factor of 40."

Barnett will also be contacting connections of leading overseas chasers in an attempt to add to the international flavour of the race.

The changes were announced yesterday at Terry Casey's Surrey stable, home of this year's National winner Rough Quest.

Rough Quest's training programme has put back by an injured tendon, but a gallop at the weekend, his first of the season, proved he is not far off race fitness.

Casey has earmarked chases at Cheltenham on December 13 and Doncaster the following day as comeback events for Rough Quest, but if the gelding is not ready he will miss the King George.

"I ride Rough Quest all the time and know him so well and when he worked on Sunday he felt tremendous," said Casey. "A month ago I thought it would be a long time before he would run, but swimming has really helped. We'd like to go for the National again and take in the Gold Cup on the way."

"He is three weeks off a run and would be ready to run really well. But we are not obsessed by the King George and if necessary we will wait until the New Year."



Honest effort... Tissue Of Lies (right) gets the better of Passage Creeping at Lingfield yesterday

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both Kempton and Haydock should have a full day, but Wetherby became the first victim of the weather. His jumping season when yesterday's meeting was snowed out.

courses suggests racing should have a full day, but Wetherby became the first victim of the weather. His jumping season when yesterday's meeting was snowed out.

dividend was explained by Jennifer Hurley, Tote Racecourse manager, who said: "We had no Tote operating on the track but betting was going on from Newton Abbot and Wetherby, before they called that meeting off, and also from betting shops."

Cricket

Missing Jones lets Harris off the hook

ANDREW HARRIS has been spared a tricky decision by the withdrawal of his Derbyshire captain Dean Jones from the Victoria team to face England A in the four-day game starting at the Optus Oval here tomorrow.

Harris joked after taking five wickets to set up England's victory over the Australian Cricket Academy in Mount Gambier on Monday that Jones had warned him not to bowl any bouncers or he would be running into the wind all next season, but Derbyshire's coach Les Stillman, another Victorian, had told him to give Jones a hard time or face a similar punishment.

Jones is not the only significant absentee from the 13-man squad. The leg-spinner Shabaz Ahmad and the experienced seamer Paul Reiffel will be engaged in the first Test against West Indies in Brisbane beginning on Friday, likewise the debutant opener Matthew Elliott.

Law latest to leave Sussex

SUSSEX yesterday lost their third high-profile player in two days when the all-rounder Danny Law joined Essex on a three-year contract.

The exodus may continue, with the former captain Alan Wells requesting permission to speak to other counties and the batsman Martin Smith considering a move to Durham.

Warwickshire's chief executive Dennis Azmiz said yesterday that Brian Lara may not play county cricket again because of "horrific" international commitments.

Haydock with form guide

Table with 2 columns: Race number and race name. Includes races like 1.10 Queen of Spades, 1.40 Stakes Chase, 2.10 Ungraded Mile, 3.10 Maiden Handicap Chase, 3.40 Maiden Handicap Chase, 4.00 Maiden Handicap Chase, 4.30 Maiden Handicap Chase, 5.00 Maiden Handicap Chase, 5.30 Maiden Handicap Chase, 6.00 Maiden Handicap Chase, 6.30 Maiden Handicap Chase, 7.00 Maiden Handicap Chase, 7.30 Maiden Handicap Chase, 8.00 Maiden Handicap Chase, 8.30 Maiden Handicap Chase, 9.00 Maiden Handicap Chase, 9.30 Maiden Handicap Chase.

Kempton programme

Table with 2 columns: Race number and race name. Includes races like 1.30 Stakes Chase, 2.30 Stakes Chase, 3.30 Stakes Chase, 4.30 Stakes Chase, 5.30 Stakes Chase, 6.30 Stakes Chase, 7.30 Stakes Chase, 8.30 Stakes Chase, 9.30 Stakes Chase.

Hereford runners and riders

Table with 2 columns: Race number and race name. Includes races like 1.00 Purse, 1.30 Maiden Handicap Chase, 2.00 Maiden Handicap Chase, 2.30 Maiden Handicap Chase, 3.00 Maiden Handicap Chase, 3.30 Maiden Handicap Chase, 4.00 Maiden Handicap Chase, 4.30 Maiden Handicap Chase, 5.00 Maiden Handicap Chase, 5.30 Maiden Handicap Chase, 6.00 Maiden Handicap Chase, 6.30 Maiden Handicap Chase, 7.00 Maiden Handicap Chase, 7.30 Maiden Handicap Chase, 8.00 Maiden Handicap Chase, 8.30 Maiden Handicap Chase, 9.00 Maiden Handicap Chase, 9.30 Maiden Handicap Chase.

Results

Table with 2 columns: Race number and race name. Lists winners and runners-up for various races at Lingfield, Kempton, and Haydock.

Results

Table with 2 columns: Race number and race name. Lists winners and runners-up for various races at Kempton.

Results

Table with 2 columns: Race number and race name. Lists winners and runners-up for various races at Hereford.

RACELINE advertisement featuring a grid of numbers and text for horse racing tips.

Soccer

Fair dinkum Venables back like a boomerang for Australia job

Martin Thorpe on why England's former coach relishes exotic World Cup mission

ONE phrase at yesterday's press conference really razzed home that yes, Terry Venables is the new national coach of Australia...

he would love to play a friendly against what he presumably must now call the mother country. As with England, Venables will be the sole national coach...

Venables' first games come in January: a four-nation tournament in Australia against Korea, New Zealand and Norway...



Venables... no regrets

Australia's international record is not great but they rank in the top eight in the world at under-17 and under-20 levels...

Champions League, Group C Manchester United v Juventus

United heads are still above water

David Lacey thinks a draw may rescue Alex Ferguson

ALEX FERGUSON is rather taken with the idea of making tonight's visit of Juventus to Old Trafford a flag day...

counter with River Plate would suit Marcello Lippi, the Juventus coach, and would not leave Ferguson entirely displeased...

First Division: Man City 0, Huddersfield 0

City on road to recovery

Paul Fitzpatrick

THE road to recovery begins with a first step and although this goalless draw represented another disappointing experience for Manchester City...

Town's anxiety and within minutes they were given real cause to sweat, not surprisingly by Kinkladze, City's one genuine class act.

Manchester City: Margison; McCollum, Brightwell, Lomas, Symons, McKeown, Kinkladze, Foster, Taylor, H. Kavalashvili, Kinkladze, Roberi, Taylor, Tomlin.



Gripping stuff... Bullock resorts to a spot of sleeve-tugging as Kinkladze gives him the slip

Oxford United 0, Bolton Wanderers 0

Wanderers fail to pass their latest Oxford examination

Jeremy Alexander

BOLTON seem uncharacteristically eager to go back for more, though last night they scarcely looked ready for it...

further slack pass by Bergsson but was too slow to capitalise. They created nothing themselves until a deep cross from Angel on the half-hour...

Oxford had first use of it and largely wasted it with rasped passing. The surface was no excuse; astonishingly it played true.

Milosevic is staying with Villa

THE proposed \$4.5 million transfer of the Aston Villa striker Savo Milosevic was called off last night - by the player himself.

Scotland would accept that date, but want the match staged closer to Britain for the sake of their supporters. The Scottish FA met in Glasgow yesterday and its spokesman David Findlay said...

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Table with sports results including Soccer, Scottish League, American Football, Basketball, Cricket, and Tennis.

Table with sports fixtures including Soccer, American Football, Basketball, and Cricket.

Rangers v Grasshopper Zurich

Scots anxious to save face against their Swiss critics

Patrick Glenn

WINLESS, pointless and seemingly clueless after four consecutive defeats in the Champions League this season...

complimentary remarks made about Rangers by certain Grasshopper players after the Swiss beat the Scots 3-0 in the opening match.

Though Walter Smith's side are chasing their ninth successive Scottish title and have a realistic chance of the domestic treble, their record in Europe's premier competition stands at a miserable two wins from 16 matches in three participations.

Sport in brief

Motor Sport: A retired rally driver from Norway, Rein Sletten, was killed yesterday in a head-on collision near Lisbon with a car driven by Jonathan Palmer... Basketball: The London Towers left qualification for the next round of the European Cup in the balance after falling 70-51 to PTY Ankara...

Old thul... claps for... (rajice)

Angis di... h repe

Reebok's £1... breaks sports...

سبكتا من الامم

Tennis

Old thunder claps for Krajicek

Stephen Bierley in Hanover

IT IS no use pretending the Expo 2000 site on the outskirts of Hanover is a thing of beauty. Not even yesterday's covering of snow could add anything in the way of charm, but then these ATP World Championships are not about charm or beauty: they are about Boris Becker.

That windy, wet, miserable and unpredictable Wimbledon seems a long time ago and for Krajicek the post-title blues have weighed heavily on his broad Dutch shoulders. He has been playing so badly that he hardly expected to be here at all in the company of the world's seven other top-ranked players.

Hingis displays rich repertoire

Chris Bowers in New York

MARTINA HINGIS served notice that she is now a threat to anyone in the women's game with a highly impressive 6-1, 6-4 win over Irina Spirlea on the opening day of the year-ending Chase Championships. "I don't think I made any mistakes," said the teenage Swiss 16-year-old, and indeed it was hard to spot any.

the 1990s, but Hingis has the extra couple of dimensions which make her the most complete player in recent months, and in the past five weeks has reached three finals, winning two, Filizert and Oakland, and in Oakland she beat Monica Seles in the final.

Athletics

Reebok's £1 million deal breaks sponsorship record

Duncan Mackay

REEBOK, the American sportswear giant, has just secured a deal worth £1 million a year to British athletics.

The deal, which will be officially announced next month, is a coup for the BAF. Reebok offered 10 times what View From was paying and the agreement is even better than the one that Nike struck with USA Track & Field, which annually earns American athletes \$700,000.



Getting into the swing of things... Andy Gomarsall acting out his new role during the England work-out at Bisham Abbey. PHOTOGRAPH TOM JENKINS

Enter pocket battleship with attitude

Ian Malin says Twickenham and Italy will hold no fears for Andy Gomarsall, the surprising choice at scrum-half for England

BISHAM ABBEY in the late-autumn sunshine looks a picture. The England squad in their pristine kit are having a gentle work-out interrupted by Jack Rowell's chortling laughter from the touchline.

who scored a brilliant solo try in the European Cup against Llanelli recently, also has his admirers. It is the dropping of Northampton's Matthew Dawson, who had taken over the No. 9 jersey from Bracken for last December's win over Western Samoa and had grown into it throughout the Five Nations, which has caused most ripples.

half's trademark. "I haven't stopped smiling since I was picked. This will be the greatest day of my life," he said. He was thrust into the spotlight last autumn after Rob Andrew left for Newcastle, taking with him a clutch of Wasps' senior players, including the first-team scrum-half Steve Bates.

their trade because of the new law that prevents opposing back-rows from leaving scrums until the ball is released by the No. 8. That extra second or two gives a powerful player such as Gomarsall the opportunity to cause more havoc.

the post-Beattie generation of players keen to make a living from the game. He led an exceptional England School side to their 1992 Grand Slam — Tim Stimpson, another debutant on Saturday at full-back, was also in the side — and has been guided at Wasps by Nigel Melville, now director of rugby at the London club.

Hockey

Royce given chance to win his spurs

JON ROYCE, the England Under-21 coach, will act as senior team coach at the six-nation Pakistan Golden Jubilee Tournament in Karachi in March.

Rugby League

Rich pickings for Wire

Paul Fitzpatrick THERE are sure to be frictions next season in competitions will be running, and that cannot be in the game's best interests. But at least the damaging legal battles are at an end, and the unravelling at Headingley today of next year's Super League programme, which includes an international club competition of all 22 European and Australian Super League sides, will take place in an atmosphere free of uncertainty.

goal-kicking centre from South Queensland Crushers on a two-year contract. Turner was recommended to Oldham by Bob Lindner, a former player and coach at Watersheddings, and Quinn is confident he will sign a prop before he leaves Australia this week.

reconverted England fly-half, will be crucial to the outcome of what could be a tricky fixture against a country desperate to be considered among Europe's elite.

Badminton

Knowles given chance to make amends

PETER KNOWLES'S unexpected defeat by Ji Xing-Peng at Mansfield the previous night made certain that the outcome of England's series against China would not be decided until the last of the six matches was played at Sheffield last night.

Robertson had been England's outstanding player at Mansfield, where he and Sarah Harcourt in the mixed doubles scored the home country's only win. Now, however, the line-up left a heavy burden upon Hunt, required at Sheffield to play in both men's and mixed doubles as England strove for victory in a series that had once seemed theirs for the taking.

Snooker

Wattana in trouble as Hunter keeps two-frame advantage

PAUL HUNTER, an 18-year-old from Yorkshire who last February became the youngest ever semi-finalist in a world-ranking event, the Regal Welsh Open at Newport, struck back-to-back centuries to lead James Wattana 6-3 yesterday. The winner will claim a place in the 16-man televised phase of the UK Championship at Preston Guild Hall.

took the two scrappiest frames of the session to secure his two-frame advantage at the close of play. Stephen Hendry has yet to fire on all cylinders this season but even so made breaks of 74, 82 and 108 in consecutive frames to lead Rod Millikin 4-1. But the world champion played poorly in the remaining three frames as Millikin levelled at 4-4 overnight.

Team talk

The independent news and reports service 0891 33 77+

Table with 4 columns: Team, Score, Opponent, Score. Lists various football teams and their current positions in the league.

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Missing Jones lets Harris off hook, page 13
The Socceros get their man, page 14

Becker keeps the home crowds buzzing, page 15
England's new scrum-half in focus, page 15

SportsGuardian

SOCCER: UEFA CUP

Third round, first leg: Metz 1, Newcastle United 1

Beardsley on the spot

Michael Walker in Metz

NEWCASTLE survived a freezing night in France and a second-half rally by Metz and the last eight of this competition.

Speculation before kick-off had changed from whether Alan Shearer would be fit enough to sit on the bench — to the rather more dramatic topic of whether the game would start at all.

A blanket of thick snow was falling on Metz from about four o'clock and when the teams arrived at the ground the pitch was covered in snow. However, by kick-off time only traces of white remained even if the temperature was zero degrees.

With both Shearer and Ferdinand absent Keegan nevertheless chose to keep Kitson as a substitute and instead gave Barton his third start of the season. Elliott, the other casualty from Saturday, gave way to Beresford in a flat back four.

As early as the first minute they were given a characteristic fright by the increasingly erratic kicking of Srnicek. The Newcastle goalkeeper scuffed his clearance straight to Metz's red-headed danger man Pires, but to his surprise he missed control and Traore was ruled offside.

Fortunately for Newcastle Srnicek's next intervention in the 15th minute was considerably more proficient when he reacted sharply to paw away the lively Traore's downward header from Isala's short corner.

There was an inquest in the Newcastle defence after that because Traore was unmarked and five minutes later when the man from Senegal surged into the box, Albert made sure the first foot to the ball was Belgian.

The French were beginning to show touches of cohesion and it looked at this stage that Asprilla was going to have a long, lonely night in isolation. Yet the Colombian was showing a genuine relish for the occasion fighting vigorously for apparently lost causes. On the half hour he



Earning his stripes... the Newcastle striker Faustino Asprilla turns Metz's defence inside-out last night

PHOTOGRAPH TONY MARS

did just that again and earned Newcastle a spectacular reward.

Chasing a long free-kick from Albert, Asprilla nipped in between his two markers, Terrier and Kastenduch, nicked the ball past both and the advancing goalkeeper Le-

tizi, and seemed set to score until Letizi brought him down.

It was an obvious penalty and Beardley, who missed one in the last round against Ferencvaros, made no mistake this time, drilling the ball low into the bottom cor-

ner. The roar from the travelling Newcastle fans was immense as was Batty's performance.

Hustling, tackling, worrying — Batty kept everyone in black and white moving. But in a see-sawing game Metz were trading bounce for bounce.

Either side of the interval shots from Pires and then Traore flew narrowly wide of Srnicek's posts and then Pires volleyed sumptuously, but again off target, after intricate approach play by Arpinon.

An equaliser in this period shortly after half-time would not have flattered but Srnicek by now had warmed to his task and with Elliott on for the injured Beresford the Newcastle backline was giving a useful impression of a solid defence.

There is, though, a madness in the method of most goalkeepers and in the 67th minute Srnicek undid all his previous good work with a rash

rush at Lang's cross from the left.

Charging recklessly towards the penalty spot Srnicek forgot about Traore who jumped simply before the goalkeeper got there and put his back header into the by now empty net.

Metz: Letizi; Song, Kastenduch, Saradzuan, Pires, Blanchard, Isala, Traore, Lang, Terrier, Arpinon. Newcastle: Srnicek; Barton (Elliott, Stroud, Beresford, Batty, Preece, Lee, Beardley, Asprilla, Kitson, Gillespie, Albert).

Between 0 Series (Austria): International yesterday played down speculation linking their English coach Roy Hodgson with a move to Blackburn. The Italian club's vice-president Gianmaria Visconti said they had received no approach from Jack Walker's club and in any case the time was not right for anyone to ask permission to speak to Hodgson. "We are first in the League and playing in the Uefa Cup and the Italian Cup, so we are fully satisfied with what Roy is doing," said Visconti.

Abstinence makes book grow fonder



Jim White

WHAT IS Mike Atherton going to do with himself over the next few months of bloody traipsing around Zimbabwe and New Zealand? There won't be any women to distract the touring party; well, at least no wives and girlfriends, left at home by a chaste new official directive. After a while the group-bonding prunks, boat races and beer monsterings organised by the party's new technical adviser Ian Botham will pall.

To help fill the lonesome days, Atherton could do worse than pop a couple of books into his hold-all before he sets off next week; Mike Marqusee's *War Minus The Shooting* (Heinemann) and Robert Winder's *Hell For Leather* (Gollancz), two wildly different accounts of the last cricket World Cup, for instance.

He won't learn much he doesn't know from them, but it will be comforting to appreciate that other people are aware of the truth that dominates his life: as England cricket captain he enters the fray not so much with one hand tied behind his back as with all his limbs trussed up like the participant in a sado-masochistic ritual. Except, in the case of the English game, there is nothing sado about it.

Marqusee, the American cricket convert, makes the unhappy observation that it was possible to enjoy the World Cup while avoiding England entirely; they were, after all, also-rans, left behind in the wash of the game's modernisation, their participation an irrelevance. "No team contributed less to the competition, won fewer friends or made more enemies."

Winder, on the other hand, chooses to attach himself to England, and observes their shame from close quarters; his account is thus the more instructive. And its conclusions are all the more damning because, as his graceful prose suggests, he is no curmudgeon, rather he seems desperate to have something positive to write home about.

Instead, it is the long list of English failure he has to communicate with his wry pen; poor preparation, amateurish public relations, players no longer capable of doing any-

thing but complaining about a job most of us fans would kill for. And over it all the withering drone of Geoff Boycott, the team's tormentor-in-chief, whose name would translate into Apache as "He Who Knows It All".

One thing, though, Winder reckons, it was not the players' fault. Were they from any other country, Thorpe, Cork, Stewart and Atherton would be world-beaters. Move to the point, were the Waugh, De Silva, Jayasuriya and Jonty Rhodes English, they would be on the losing side. Had Sachin Tendulkar been born in this country, Winder suggests, this is how he would have ended up: sitting at home during the forthcoming winter tour, publicly humiliated by his international manager, widely reckoned a criminal waste of natural talent. Just like Mark Ramprakash, in fact.

We all know what Winder is on about, that England have been left behind in the international game not because the talent has dried up but because they insist on entering the fray dragged down by the pair of concrete boots that is the county circuit, the morale-sapping grind that wore down even the likes of Brian Lara and Allan Donald.

We know that money drawn from popular international matches is wasted subsidising something that no one — players or spectators — wants. We know it is a pointless, counter-productive, second-rate operation which resembles nothing more than the Scottish Premier Division. Except without Rangers and Celtic.

A

THERTON knows it, too. He knows that imposing a banking ban, bringing in an old maestro as coach and organising a tour against the weaker nations in the hope of building a winning habit is just rearranging the deck-chairs on the Titanic. Unless the whole structure is changed, his winters — and most of his summers — will continue spinning down a vortex of misery.

But he, like Winder and the rest of us, knows the only hope is that some Go backer or De Klerk emerges from within the county structure and persuades his colleagues to vote themselves into oblivion for the sake of the country.

An unlikely thought, that. After all, if the blazerist didn't have their privileges, how would they get tickets for the 2000 World Cup final at Lord's? Sri Lanka v India; should be a cracker, that. Especially as it will provide endless opportunity to engage in the national sport: wondering why we can't produce players like that any more.

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Guardian Crossword No 20,815

Set by Shed

Across

- 9 An Arab's mount, perhaps, without lines to the constellation (9)
- 10 Knock out model making comeback in the city (8)
- 11 Gift of 18 bearing South (7)
- 12 Walk with a slightly disabled US lawyer (7)
- 13 Russian front one preceded (4)
- 14 Chauvinist taking time to fix and categorise (10)
- 16 Mean to say a vicar gets a return (7)
- 17 Happened to find origin of Norman church in African state (7)
- 19 Rule on motorway receiving gift? Vice versa (10)
- 22 Word beloved of fundamentalists? (4)
- 24 Greek entertainer performed the aria (7)

Down

- 25 Alpino devised a music machine (7)
- 26 Round row's complaint — contains additive and fat (5)
- 27 Mice and men all agley, wanting fishhead for pie filling (9)

Solution tomorrow

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8 see 5
16 One using needle at sea on ship (8)
17 18 concealing quiet force making 27 (9)
18 MC almost introducing large musician (9)
20, 2 Ministry, therefore, wearing trousers in 23 suite (6,5)
21 Nightmare culture raised by universal scholar (8)
23 18 in tangle (5)

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ABWQPR